

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Austrians Hope For Peace Treaty

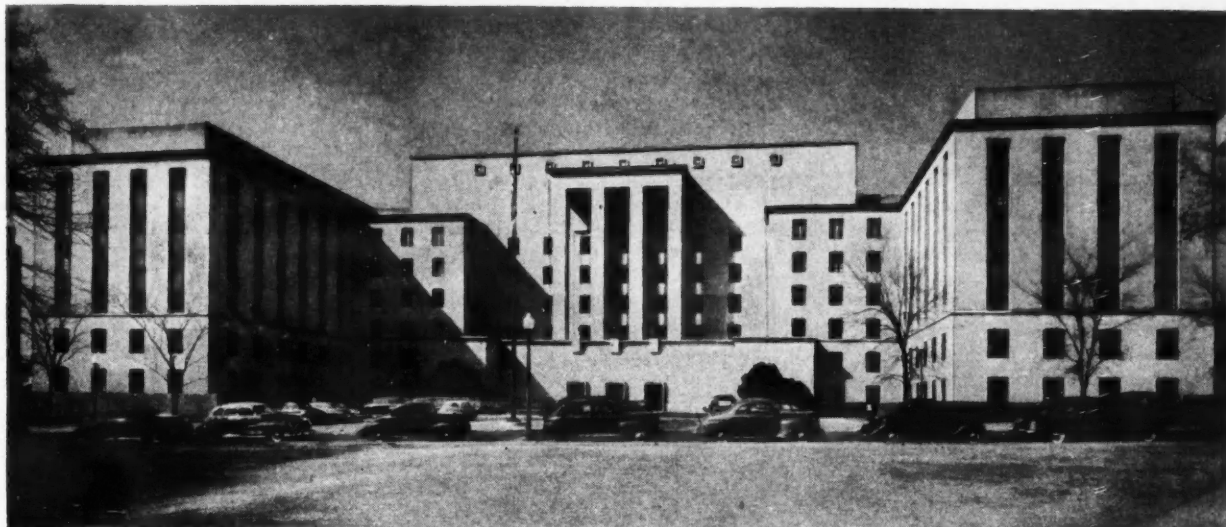
The Occupying Powers Resume Discussion of Terms at a Meeting in London

THE Austrian people, who have undergone hard and bitter experiences for many years, are hoping that their "luck" may change as a result of a meeting that opens today in London. Representatives of the four occupation powers—France, Great Britain, Russia, and the United States—are convening in the British capital to discuss a peace treaty for the small central European nation. If the talks are successful, the armies of occupation may be withdrawn from Austria and the country may again become an independent state.

Austria lost her freedom in March of 1938 when the Nazis annexed the nation, renamed it "Ostmark"—meaning eastern province, and incorporated it into greater Germany. At the end of World War II, the major powers indicated that Austria would not be treated as a former enemy country, and that a peace treaty restoring her full independence would soon be written.

At that time, though, Austria had no government of its own, so the four Allied powers—the countries whose representatives are now meeting in London—divided the nation into zones. Each power occupied one of the sectors. Russia stayed in the eastern part of the country; Great Britain and the United States took two of the central zones; and France occupied the western section. This arrangement was expected to last for only a

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STATE DEPARTMENT BUILDING in Washington, D. C.

U. S. State Department at Work

America's Increasing Participation in World Affairs in Past 10 Years Has Caused Expansion of Agency That Carries Out Our Foreign Policies

DEAN ACHESON has been a busy man since his recent appointment as Secretary of State. It is generally agreed that his is one of the most difficult jobs in our national government.

Fortunately, Mr. Acheson has had previous experience in managing the State Department. He served as Undersecretary of State during the 19-month period that James F. Byrnes was head of the Department (from July 1945 to January 1947). Mr. Byrnes was away from Washington attending international conferences more than half of the time, so Mr. Acheson actually ran the Department for about a year.

No other civilian agency of the government has matched the State

Department's growth during the last 10 years. "In 1938," according to the *New York Times*, "there were 968 persons employed in this Department; today there are 5,652—an increase of 487 per cent. Abroad there were 3,749 persons working under the supervision of the Department in 1938; today there are 12,294—a 230 per cent increase."

"The Department's budget has risen from \$2,600,000 in 1938 to more than \$33,700,000 in 1948, and from about \$20,000,000 for the foreign service to more than \$300,000,000."

The rapid expansion of this organization has come about as a result of America's increasing participation in world affairs. Before the war, the United States remained aloof from

many so-called "foreign entanglements." Today, our country is an outstanding leader in the United Nations and concerns itself with all important international problems.

Quoting again from the *New York Times*, we learn that "before the war the United States participated directly or indirectly in about 75 international conferences a year. Last year the United States played a leading part, with large delegations, in 394 international meetings or conferences."

It is to be seen, therefore, that the Secretary of State and his Department are confronted with a tremendous task. Of course, neither Mr. Acheson nor the agency he directs has the power to decide what our foreign policy shall be. Both must follow the general program laid down by Congress and the Chief Executive.

The President, particularly, has great authority over the nation's foreign policy. He can engage in many dealings with other countries without the consent of Congress.

On big questions, such as making treaties and entering into important foreign agreements, the President must have the approval of the Senate. But after the treaty or agreement is adopted, it is the President's responsibility to see that the terms and provisions are carried out.

Naturally, he cannot personally handle all the questions which arise in our relations with other nations. The world has become so closely interwoven that many problems must be taken care of every day in the dealings among countries.

Some of these problems involve foreign trade, shipping, international aviation, communications. Others include the conditions under which people may travel in foreign countries, may own property, may operate businesses.

Since the President cannot possibly

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Seize Your Opportunities!

By Walter E. Myer



Walter E. Myer

AT midseason a few years ago a big league baseball team which had performed indifferently at the start won a string of victories and took the lead in the pennant race. This team seemed not to be much better than its rivals. Many of the games were extremely close, and time after time a single spectacular play spelled the difference between victory and defeat.

How could one account for such a winning streak? "It's just plain luck," said the supporters of the other teams. "Those fellows are getting all the breaks."

In a single game most of the "breaks" may fall on one side. A batted ball may take a bad hop. A fielder may catch a ball that he would miss nine times in ten. A normally poor batter may get a home run with the bases full.

If all this happens in any one game, we may say that the team which benefited "got the breaks." We say the winners were lucky. But suppose such things happen day after day—unexpected turns and unusual performances. Suppose that some one team gets more of these breaks than its opponents do.

We don't call it "luck" in that case. It is skill. It is the ability to take quick advantage of unexpected chances. It is good baseball. We know that day in and day out the breaks are fairly evenly divided among the teams from the top to the bottom of the league. The "lucky" players are the ones who are able to make the most of their opportunities.

This rule holds true not only among athletes but in all phases of life. The student who fails in his school work, the man who doesn't get along, frequently explains defeat on the ground that he was unlucky.

Perhaps he was. Unavoidable illness

strikes people now and then and sets them back, sometimes disastrously. A depression may come along, destroy a man's job and consume all his possessions. These are circumstances beyond one's control, and we may as well call them visitations of bad luck as anything else.

By and large, however, luck is on the side of the man who, like the victorious baseball players, has learned to make use of opportunities when they come. Success is likely to come to one who is well prepared for the work he is to do and who follows his objectives through thick and thin. The wise man will not depend on luck to carry him to the top in his chosen field.

"Shallow men believe in luck," says Emerson, and Matthew Arnold puts it this way:

"Yet they, believe me, who await

No gifts from Chance, have conquered Fate."

People of Austria Hope to Secure Independence

(Continued from page 1)

short time. Late in 1945 a central, elected government was established under the control of the Austrian people.

Soon, however, it became apparent that the country was not yet to have complete control of its own destiny. The four powers could not agree on details concerning a peace treaty for the nation and the occupation dragged on and on.

One of the chief obstacles in the path of the peace talks has been the question of how much Russia should take from Austria to pay for damage inflicted on the Soviet Union by the Germans. When the Nazis annexed the nation, they took over factories and industrial equipment from the Austrian owners. Russia claimed that this property should be used to pay Germany's war reparations. The

Austria has been making remarkable progress. Industrial production in some lines is higher than it was before the war, and particularly striking advances were made last year. The output of steel was increased by 67 per cent over the level of 1947, and the manufacture of certain items made of steel was increased by as much as 95 per cent. Agricultural production has risen, too, but Austria must still import a great deal of her food.

Several factors have helped to make Austria's impressive record of achievement possible. First of all, while there has been some conflict between Russia and the Western powers relative to occupation policies, these nations have worked beside one another remarkably well. There have been few of the difficulties that have arisen in Ger-

man, and most Austrians have cooperated with them.

A third circumstance that has helped to advance the nation is the stable political situation which has prevailed since the end of the war. The present government was elected late in 1945 and has continued in power since that time. It is a coalition formed by the two major political parties—the People's Party and the Socialist Party. The People's Party is made up of businessmen, farmers, and the more conservative groups in the nation. The Socialist Party is made up primarily of the industrial working classes.

While these political groups differ on many issues, they have cooperated with one another during the past three years, and they have tried to remove the conditions that lead to unrest and

Austria greatly is the financial aid the United States has given the nation. Since the end of the war, our country has spent more than 620 million dollars to help Austria including the funds spent under the Marshall Plan. A large part of this assistance has been spent for food, but now the nation is getting equipment that will help to build up its factories and farms. Tractors, coal mining equipment, steel processing machinery, and equipment for power stations and textile mills were high on the list of purchases Austria made under the Marshall Plan during the last three months of last year.

Before World War I, Austria had for centuries been associated with other central European countries, particularly with Hungary as part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In 1918, the state became an independent republic, but internal difficulties and depression kept it from becoming a strong nation. The story of what has occurred since the German annexation in 1938 has been told earlier in this article.

Most observers believe that now Austria is prepared to work toward a prosperous future. Its chief problem will be to manufacture large quantities of goods to sell to other countries. This it must do because it probably will never be able to grow enough food for its 7 million people.

Nation's Resources

Resources are at hand for industrial development, though. The nation has valuable deposits of iron ore, and it has copper, sulphur, bauxite, and manganese. While it has little coal, the mountain streams furnish abundant water power. Already the nation is benefiting greatly from its sale of hydro-electric power to nearby countries.

Two of Austria's greatest assets are its scenery and the temperament of its people. Both attract large numbers of tourists to the country and are important sources of income. Alpine mountain ranges in western Austria are used by vacationists in the summer and in the winter. The gentler slopes toward the east are also attractive to travelers; and Vienna, with its music and culture, is another favorite spot. Furthermore, the people, who are well educated and have a deep enjoyment of life, help to make the land a pleasant one to visit.

While the past has been hard and the present is discouraging, Austria is one of the nations of the world that can look forward to progress. Much depends, of course, on the outcome of the London meeting, and a great deal depends upon there being peace between East and West.

Twenty-five young Americans—all born and reared in cities—are now running a farm in New Jersey. They are learning the chores that make farming a dawn-to-dusk job, in preparation for similar work in the new state of Israel. In a few months, they will go to a farm located in one of the areas chosen by Israeli authorities for cultivation.

The young people are under an 18-year-old leader whom they elected. He manages the 160-acre farm, and assigns tasks to the others.



AUSTRIA wants the occupying armies to leave her soil

Western powers contended that these factories and equipment really belonged to the Austrians and that they should not be taken to pay German debts.

Another difficulty arose when Russia insisted that Yugoslavia's demands against Austria be met. Yugoslavia wanted to be paid 150 million dollars in war reparations and she wanted to be given a strip of territory in southern Austria. The Western nations felt that Austria, poverty-stricken as she is, could not afford to pay the reparations demanded by Yugoslavia, and they also were opposed to forcing Austria to give up some of her land.

Finally, in May of last year, all attempts to arrange a treaty were abandoned. The occupation armies stayed in their zones, and Russia continued to take property from her section to pay for the German war damage. At first the Soviet Union took entire plants, but later she established the practice of taking a percentage of the goods produced in the area. One of the most important of the products Russia has been getting in this way is the oil from the valuable deposits that lie in eastern Austria.

In spite of the disadvantages of being occupied by foreign powers,

many. Although Vienna, like Berlin, lies entirely within the Russian zone, and is held by representatives from all four occupying powers, Soviet leaders have made no attempt to exclude the West.

Some observers believe that Russia has tried to cooperate because she realizes that to split Austria entirely would strangle its economic life. That in turn would cut down on the reparations the Soviet Union can take of the country. Others believe that Russia is "behaving" because she wants to gain the favor of the Austrian people. Whatever the reason, Russia has not made as much trouble in Austria as she has in Germany—and Austria has benefited from the comparative peace.

The fact that the country has been united under a central government controlled by the Austrians themselves is another reason for the progress that the occupied nation has made. The four powers have had a right to veto certain measures put forward by the Austrian government, and they have had other privileges within the nation. Nevertheless, the President, the cabinet members, and the lawmakers have been the real governing force. They have strived constantly to prepare their nation for the end of the occupa-

tion, and most Austrians have cooperated with them. For one thing, they have taken drastic steps to combat inflation. The Austrian government has limited the money supply of the nation, so that people cannot compete excessively for the limited quantities of food and goods. Thus, prices have not been bid up in that country to the extent that they have in many others.

Although the Austrian people would naturally like to have more money, the majority of them are supporting their government's efforts to prevent runaway inflation. When goods are more plentiful, the nation's money supply can be increased.

The Austrian government has acted in other ways to eliminate conditions which cause unrest and tend to encourage communism. It has done everything possible to wipe out the housing shortage and to increase the output of all kinds of goods in that country.

As a result, the few Communists that there are among the Austrian people have lost what little power and influence they may once have had. They have not been able to bring about riots and strikes in Austria as they have done in France and Italy.

A fourth factor that has helped

Science News

A SCIENCE show called "The March of Research"—sponsored by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation—is to be shown during the next three months in major cities throughout the East and Middle West. The exhibition features the mystery of the atom, new kinds of plastics, jets, and metal alloys. Spectators at the show will see how atoms are "smashed," and how the strength of metals is determined. Also, they will view models of future aircraft.

★ ★ ★

At Klamath Falls, Oregon, a 450-foot stretch of highway is free of snow and ice this winter. Iron pipes have been buried under eight inches of concrete. Through the pipes runs a mixture of hot water and anti-freeze, which is heated by the natural hot-springs found in the region. As the mixture flows through the pipes, it heats the road to a temperature of 50 degrees, melting the snow and ice on the road within a short time.

Although the cost of installing a heated road is high, this method will probably be used in many other cities where short sections of highway have been dangerous for winter driving.

★ ★ ★

Experts say that the wild animal population of Alaska is declining almost as rapidly as her human population is rising. Wildlife authorities say that if new game laws are not passed immediately, the territory's reindeer, caribou, buffalo, and other wild game will become scarce.

★ ★ ★

The United States Department of Agriculture is developing new varieties of vegetables, fruits, poultry, and grains in government laboratories, greenhouses, and fields. Among the newest foods—not yet on the market—are lima beans which are uniform in size and have a rich green color. Purple grapes, larger and sweeter than present varieties, have also been grown; and a new type of jelling agent has been obtained from waste citrus fruit. New cheeses are being made under simplified factory operations so that the cheese product is very uniform and of high quality. Ice cream made from sweet-cream buttermilk is also one of the Bureau's new food products.

—By HAZEL LEWIS.



THIS 98-POUND TUBE will replace a 225-pound tube that has been used in radio transmitting stations. The lighter device will cut shipping costs and simplify the job of replacing tubes in a station.



A DENTIST at work on a young patient

Career for Tomorrow

Field of Dentistry

DENTISTRY today offers many opportunities for a successful career. Both in cities and in rural areas, the demand for dentists' services far surpasses the supply of men and women trained in the field.

To succeed in this work, people must like scientific subjects and be able to use their hands in performing intricate and precise operations. Dentists should also have pleasing personalities, since they work constantly with others.

Pre-dental students must attend a liberal arts college for at least two years. There they should take chemistry, biology, physics and mathematics. They may, of course, remain in college for the full four-year course, and get a bachelor's degree before going on to specialized study.

The dental work itself is taken at an approved dental school. The course covers four years' study of the technical details related to the profession—including such subjects as the structure of the mouth, the use of X-rays, and the diseases that afflict the teeth and gums. It also includes work in the school laboratory and in a clinic.

In the laboratory, students learn the use of dental instruments. In the clinic, they gain practical experience by giving treatment to patients under the supervision of their teachers.

After receiving a degree in dentistry, a person must take a special examination to qualify for practice in the state where he or she plans to work. This examination is designed to test one's knowledge of the subjects taken in dental school and to determine one's general fitness for professional work. Persons who pass the examination receive a license from the state board of dental examiners. They may then open an office and begin their professional careers.

Dentists may be general practitioners or specialists. Those who are general practitioners make plates, crowns, and bridges in addition to filling cavities and extracting teeth. Those who are specialists confine themselves to one field, performing operations on the mouth, caring for children's teeth, or correcting jaws and teeth that have grown in an abnormal way. Dentists

also may teach at dental schools, and some enter the armed forces or work for state or federal public health services.

Incomes for dentists are relatively high. In large cities, the earnings of experienced dentists average from \$7,000 to \$10,000 a year, and specialists may make much higher incomes than these. In small cities and rural areas, incomes are lower, but they compare favorably with the earnings of other professional people.

One advantage in being a dentist lies in the satisfaction a person can derive from work which combines a knowledge of science with service to one's fellow men. Many young people, though, would not like the type of work dentistry involves, and they should not plan to go into the field. One should thoroughly investigate the work before he decides to make it his career.

Young dentists are faced with a major problem when they set out on their professional careers—for they will find that the cost of opening a dentist's office is high. This obstacle, can, of course, be overcome, but prospective dentists should realize that it lies ahead of them and they should make plans to meet it.

There are relatively few women in dentistry, but some have done well in the field, especially in the larger cities.

Further information on this subject may be obtained by writing to the Council on Dental Education of the American Dental Association, 222 East Superior Street, Chicago, Illinois.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Six flying weather stations are on 24-hour duty in the air lanes between Berlin and Western Germany. The planes gather information about wind speed, clouds, and visibility which is radioed immediately to pilots flying the airlift. This is probably the fastest weather-reporting service in the world.

A large parchment book weighing 38 pounds and printed in many colors has been presented to the Pan American Union in Washington, D. C. It contains a description of each country belonging to the organization.

Study Guide

Austria

1. What was Austria's relation to Germany when World War II broke out in 1939?
2. Describe briefly the arrangements made by France, Great Britain, Russia, and the United States for occupying Austria.
3. What two obstacles have prevented the four powers from agreeing upon a peace treaty for the nation?
4. Has there been more or less friction among the occupying powers in Austria than there has been in Germany?
5. Why has communism failed to win much support in Austria?
6. What has our country done to help the nation since the end of World War II?
7. Briefly describe Austria's resources.

Discussion

Do you or do you not think that industrial equipment formerly belonging to Austrian citizens should be used to pay for war damage that Germany inflicted upon other countries? Give reasons for your answer.

State Department

1. Why is Dean Acheson well qualified to serve as Secretary of State?
2. Why has it been necessary for the State Department to employ thousands of additional people during the past ten years?
3. Outline briefly the President's and Congress' powers over our foreign policy.
4. What are the duties of Dean Acheson's six assistant secretaries?
5. Briefly describe the work that is done by our ambassadors and ministers in foreign countries.
6. How does the Secretary's Staff Committee operate?
7. What criticisms are frequently made against the State Department?
8. What does Andre Visson, writer on foreign affairs, think about Dean Acheson's advisers on Soviet-American relations?

Miscellaneous

1. Why do most businessmen and economists think that there will not be serious unemployment in this country during the remainder of this year?
2. What circumstances make it unlikely that Sweden will join the North Atlantic Pact at this time?
3. Name the five greatest wheat-producing countries. On what problems are they and other nations now conferring in Washington?
4. Why is it felt that the outcome of the recent elections in Japan may make the task of the occupation authorities more difficult?
5. How has the U. S. Air Force been helping to save snowbound livestock on western ranges?
6. What are some of the explanations that are being advanced for the recent Soviet peace gestures?

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Pronunciations

Graz—grahts
Klagenfurt—klah'g'en-foört'
Neunkirchen—noin'kirk'en
Villach—fil'ahk

The Story of the Week

U. S. Employment Picture

A year ago the total number of unemployed in the United States was a little over 1½ million. This was a very low figure. At any given time a good many people are out of jobs because they are going from one position to another, and there are some who do not want work. When, therefore, the unemployment figure is as low as 1½ million, it means that practically anyone who wants work can have it.

During the last few months, however, unemployment totals have risen. The *New York Times* has conducted a nationwide survey and it finds that in some parts of the country, unemployment has increased by 10 per cent, while in certain places, the number out of work has doubled.

Union labor officials estimate that 750,000 have lost their jobs in the last three months, and that by spring, 3,500,000 may be out of work. Most employers, according to the *Times*, think that the union officials overestimate the amount of unemployment, but it is generally agreed that the number out of work has increased recently.

Several explanations are given for the fact that many workers are losing their jobs. One reason is that prices are very high and many people are refusing to buy anything except essentials. When the public buys less, some factories, unable to sell all they produce, are obliged to close and this means loss of jobs to the workers.

Another explanation is that many merchants find their shelves well filled, and they are cutting down their orders until demand catches up with supply.

In some cases it may be that factory owners are moving slowly until they see what kind of taxes they will have to pay.

Most businessmen and economists do not think that the unemployment problem will be a serious one soon. They think that conditions will probably improve within a few weeks. The United States is engaging in a



BOY SCOUT WEEK, now in progress, has as its theme, "Strengthen the Arm of Liberty." The Scouts are celebrating the 39th anniversary of their founding.

large armament program, and that will give jobs to many people. Furthermore, the United States will be shipping vast quantities of goods to Europe, in fulfillment of the Marshall Plan. This will create an increased demand for goods produced in America, and a high rate of production and employment is expected.

Ice Boating

Enthusiasts of ice boating are now indulging in their favorite sport in many parts of the North. They are maneuvering their fragile-looking craft over the frozen surface of lakes and streams at speeds faster than the wind. Not many people have the chance to participate in ice boating, but those who do think it the most exciting pastime there is.

Ice boating began in the Scandinavian countries many years ago. The first boats were probably made by fastening a platform to skis and then mounting a sail above. Modern ice

boats use steel runners rather than skis and have been improved in other ways, but the basic idea is the same as in olden times.

Ice boats were used on the Hudson River in George Washington's day to carry supplies. Later they were used for racing purposes, and shippers on the Hudson used to like to race the fast trains that went up and down the tracks which are on the banks of the river. Invariably the ice boats won.

Driven along before the wind, the light boats attain tremendous speeds. Some have been known to go as fast as 140 miles an hour. Such astonishing speed is explained largely by the fact that there is very little friction created by the steel runners on the ice.

North Atlantic Pact

Representatives of the United States, Canada, and five European countries are now putting the finishing touches on the proposed North Atlantic Pact. The document is expected to unite Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada, and the United States in a defensive alliance. It is believed that the pact will soon be submitted to the U. S. Congress and to the legislatures of the other participating countries for final approval.

Great progress has been made in ironing out the details of the treaty, but final answers to a number of questions must still be obtained. For example, what pledges will the United States make under such an agreement? Will an armed attack on any one of the European signers of the Pact mean that we must send troops to the aid of the attacked country, or will our assistance be limited to furnishing supplies and arms?

These questions are sure to be threshed out in Congress, for this marks the first time in history that we have proposed to join a permanent, peacetime alliance with nations in Europe.

A second matter yet to be decided

is the part, if any, to be played by the Scandinavian countries in the defensive alliance. The leaders of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark recently held a conference to discuss this matter. They did not agree on unified action, but they may join the alliance individually. Norway and Denmark seem more likely to become members of the North Atlantic Pact than does Sweden. Her closeness to Russia and her traditional neutrality make her reluctant to join any military alliance.

World Wheat Parley

An international conference to regulate the sale of wheat between various countries is now going on in Washington. Fifty nations have sent representatives to the conference, including the United States, Russia, Canada, Australia and Argentina. The countries mentioned are the five greatest producers of wheat in the world.

The specific purpose of the conference is to set a "fair price" at which



LI TSUNG-JEN, acting president of the Nationalist government in China, was under increasingly great pressure from the Communists as we went to press. The Communists, pushing steadily ahead, were demanding unconditional surrender.

wheat would be sold by one country to another. It will also try to reach agreement on how much wheat can be obtained by countries in need of this vital food.

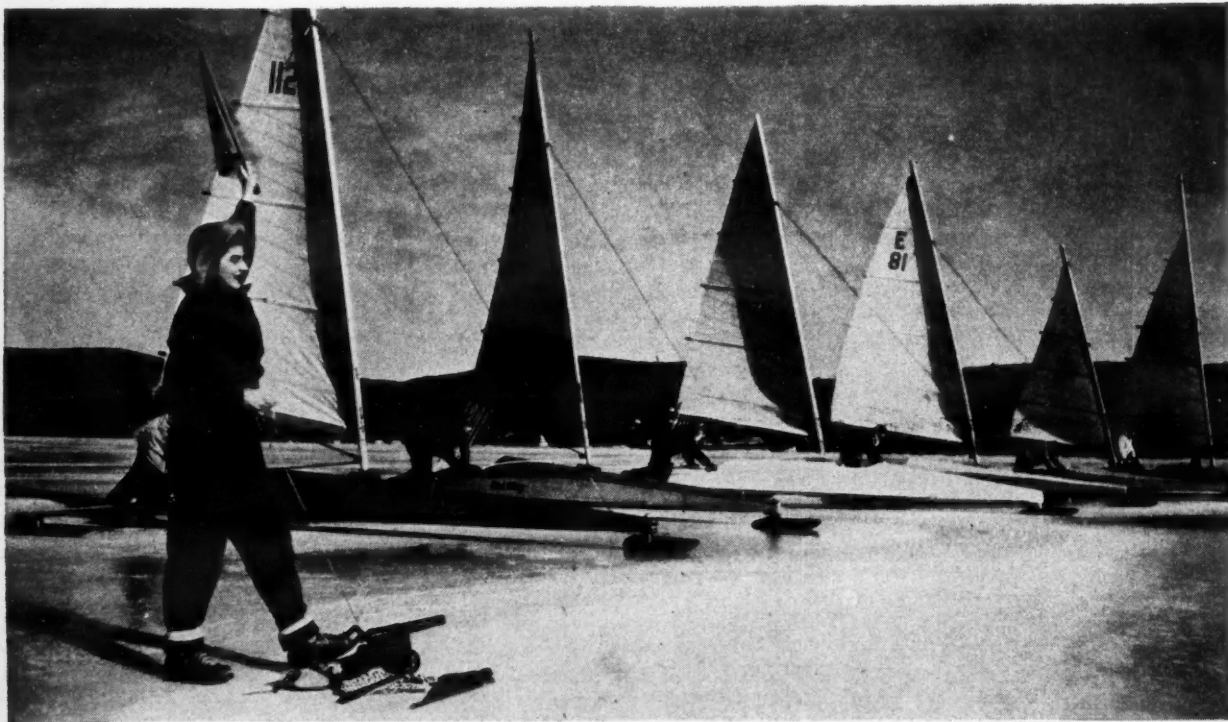
The conference is considered of great importance because many countries are suffering from a shortage of wheat. As a result, there has been keen competition for the available supply, and some nations have not been receiving enough wheat to fill their essential needs.

The conference is important also because it may indicate how far Russia and Argentina are willing to go in cooperating with the other nations in reaching a wheat agreement. These two lands refused to attend the international wheat conference that was held in the United States last year.

Japanese Diet

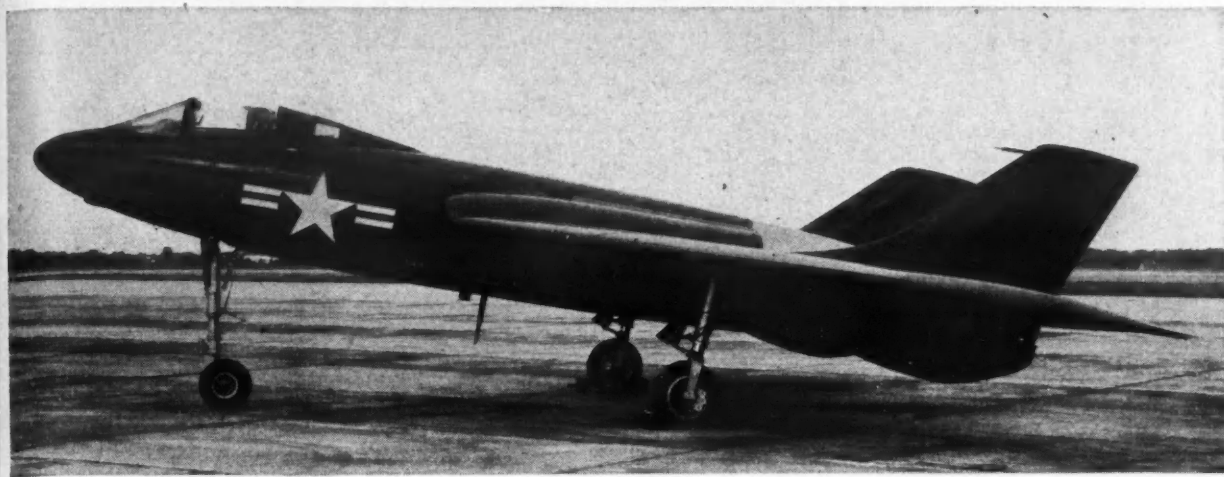
As a result of the recent elections in Japan, the country's most conservative and radical parties both have more seats in the lower house of the "Diet," or legislature, than they did formerly. The Democratic Liberal Party, which is considered to represent many of the wealthy people of Japan, won 263 seats out of a possible 466. The Communists, the most radical group in the nation, won 35. This is a relatively small number, but it marks a great increase over the old Diet, where the Communists had only four seats.

In the opinion of many observers,



START of an ice boat race. The fragile craft can hit 140 miles per hour when sailing conditions are right

AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE



THIS NEW NAVY PLANE, a twin-jet fighter with swept back wings, can reach speeds in excess of 600 miles per hour. It is known as the "Cutlass."

this increase by the two extremist parties may mean much strife in Japan. The Democratic Liberal Party is now strong enough to elect its choice for premier and to pass almost any legislation it wishes. But its actions will probably be opposed continually by the Communists and their allies.

Of course, the Diet does not have the same power as the legislature of a free and independent country. Japan is still occupied by the United States and its allies of World War II, and the nation's leaders must follow, in the main, the policies laid down by General Douglas MacArthur as Supreme Allied Commander. Nonetheless, the strengthening of the extremist parties may make the task of the occupation authorities more difficult.

Western "Haylift"

The "haylift" operation to save more than 1 million starving sheep and cattle on snowbound, western ranges has been attracting much attention. The U. S. Air Force has used C-82 "flying boxcars" to haul hay to the stricken regions. Prolonged blizzards have marooned herds in Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, and other western states.

In most cases the planes have landed their cargo at an airport, and the hay has been trucked from there to ranches that need it badly. In some instances, however, the air crews have dropped bales of hay over ranges where cattle were beyond the reach of other aid. Despite the use of the emergency "haylift," losses are believed to be extensive and may result in price increases for meat in coming weeks.

Soviet Peace Gestures

Is Russia actually trying to extend an olive branch to us? Does she want to establish friendlier relations? Or is she undertaking, through the use of soft words, to catch us off guard? These questions are real puzzlers.

Those who hope for more peaceful Soviet policies point to the following developments that have occurred in recent weeks:

The official organ of the French Communist Party said that there was no reason why Communist and capitalist nations might not work peaceably together. A few days later Valmiro Togliatti, Communist leader of Italy, made a similar statement. Shortly thereafter, the Information Bulletin published by the Soviet Embassy in Washington said, "There are no barriers to the good will of peoples aspiring toward a common aim."

All three of these statements were no doubt approved by the Moscow government in advance. They were climaxed by Stalin's public declaration that he would be willing to meet with President Truman to talk over peace and disarmament problems. Why is Russia suddenly adopting a more conciliatory attitude?

There are several possibilities. The Russians may want to appear less threatening so that Americans will not be so fearful of war and will cut down their armament program. The Soviet authorities may have decided to be more peaceful in attitude so that the United States and the nations of Western Europe may not feel it necessary to form a military alliance.

It is possible, of course, that Russia, seeing that a strong alliance is being formed against her, actually wants to put an end to the "cold war," on as favorable terms as she can get.

"Flu" Strikes Europe

The most widespread influenza epidemic in 30 years is sweeping over Europe. Thousands of people have been hospitalized in Italy, Austria, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Czechoslovakia. Since the outbreak is of a relatively mild form of the disease, it is not causing many deaths,

but it is keeping large numbers of people from their jobs.

In 1918 a more deadly form of influenza swept Europe as an aftermath of World War I and spread to the United States and other parts of the world. About 15 million people died in that epidemic. Many people feared that an outbreak of equal seriousness might follow World War II, but modern health methods have done much in recent years to control epidemics. However, public health authorities in this country are watching the situation in Europe closely to see that the "flu" does not spread to the United States.

Kashmir Agreement

The people of Kashmir, the rich princely state in Northern India, will vote in the near future whether they wish to join the Dominion of India or Pakistan. The two Indian nations recently agreed that such an election should be held.

Until a few weeks ago, there was bitter fighting in Kashmir. Moslems invaded the state in the fall of 1947 from neighboring Pakistan territory and tried to overthrow the Kashmir government, which is ruled by a Hindu prince. The latter thereupon announced that Kashmir was a part of the Indian Dominion and ordered his

army to give battle to the Moslem forces. There were frequent lulls in the fighting, but there has been a danger that the uprising might spread.

At the urging of the United Nations, the two governments finally agreed to halt the battle and make plans for a referendum. It is considered quite possible that the people there will vote to join Pakistan. For while the ruler of Kashmir is a Hindu and is friendly to the Dominion of India, most of his subjects are Moslem and lean toward Pakistan.

Two Development Plans

The recent announcement of economic development plans by both the United States and Russia has been the cause of considerable comment lately in the nation's press.

In his inaugural address late last month, President Truman announced a program for helping "undeveloped areas of the world." He said that we must help free peoples produce more food, clothing, housing materials, and mechanical power. Some people interpreted these words to mean that our government might be contemplating a world-wide Marshall Plan.



TRAFFIC LIGHT that talks. Its warning, "Mind how you cross!" startles pedestrians into obedience as the lights change. The man is shown adjusting the recording device that is synchronized with the lights to speak the warning.

Secretary of State Acheson elaborated some days later on the President's remarks. He indicated that no large-scale, global, foreign-aid program is expected at this time, but said that the President was simply pointing out that we are willing and anxious to work with other countries in helping them develop their skills and abilities. Mr. Acheson said that we will continue to make available to backward lands our scientific and industrial "know how" if such countries wish to cooperate in action of this nature, but we will do it through such existing channels as the United Nations and related organizations.

The plan recently announced by Russia is obviously an attempt by the Soviet Union to copy the Marshall Plan. A "mutual aid" group was set up, consisting of Russia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Czechoslovakia. It was announced that trade would be stimulated among these nations in various ways, and that other countries would be allowed to join the organization. Yugoslavia, which has been "on the outs" with the Soviet Union since last summer, was left out of the group.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

An elevator man grew weary of repeated requests for the time. So he put a clock in the elevator. Now people constantly ask, "Is that clock right?"

★ ★ ★

Employee: "I have been here for 10 years doing three men's work for one man's pay. Now I want a raise."

Employer: "I can't give you a raise, but if you'll tell me who the other men are, I'll discharge them."

★ ★ ★

Medical Professor: "What would you do in the case of a person eating poisoned mushrooms?"

Student: "Recommend a change of diet."

★ ★ ★

Housewife: "I see a spider web in the corner, Ethel. To what do you attribute that?"

Maid: "To the spider, Ma'am."

★ ★ ★

There is the story of the movie producer who was roused from his sleep by the cry of "Fire," and dressed in such a panic that when he reached the sidewalk his coat and pants matched.

Director: "Don't forget now. You look around, discover that someone is chasing you, then you dive off this 200-foot cliff."

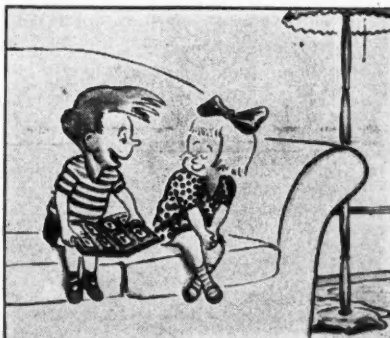
Stunt Man: "But there's only six inches of water at the bottom!"

Director: "Sure, you don't think we want you to drown, do you?"

★ ★ ★

Father: "So you desire to become my son-in-law, young man?"

Young man: "Frankly, I don't but I have to if I marry your daughter."



"The years have treated you kindly, Alice"

Department of State

(Concluded from page 1)

deal with all these and other matters himself, he turns over most of the actual work to the State Department. As head of this Department, it is Mr. Acheson's job to carry out the decisions on foreign matters which are made by the President and Congress. While he does not actually shape our policies, his dealings with other countries do help to influence the kind of relations we have with them.

The Secretary of State has six assistant secretaries who specialize on our relations with certain areas of the world or on specific international problems. There is also an Undersecretary who manages the Department when the chief is away.

The six assistants, together with the Secretary of State, the Undersecretary, and several other special advisers, meet together regularly and discuss the broad problems before the State Department and how they can be dealt with most effectively. This group is known as the Secretary's Staff Committee.

Under each of the assistant secretaries are a number of smaller bureaus which specialize on specific problems and areas. There are far too many of these to be listed in full, but here are a few which are typical:

Petroleum Division; Division of Chinese Affairs; Division of Japanese Affairs; Division of Philippine Affairs; Division of Southern European Affairs; Division of Mexican Affairs; Division of International Organization Affairs; Central Translating Division; Division of Geography and Cartography, Passport Division.

These smaller bureaus do the everyday, routine work of the department. They carry out the orders of the top officials. They make studies and investigations in their special fields.

All our relations with foreigners, though, cannot be carried on in Washington. The bulk of the work has to be done in foreign lands. Hence, the State Department maintains an extensive foreign service.

This service includes the diplomatic officials and their employees in American embassies and legations throughout the world. Ordinarily, ambassadors are sent to larger and more important nations while ministers are sent to smaller countries.

Both ambassadors and ministers are given their orders and instructions by the Secretary of State, although they are appointed by the President. Their task is to carry on official discussions and negotiations between our State Department and the governments of the countries to which they have been sent. Their embassy and legation staffs also handle much routine business involving problems of Americans who are traveling or staying in those countries.

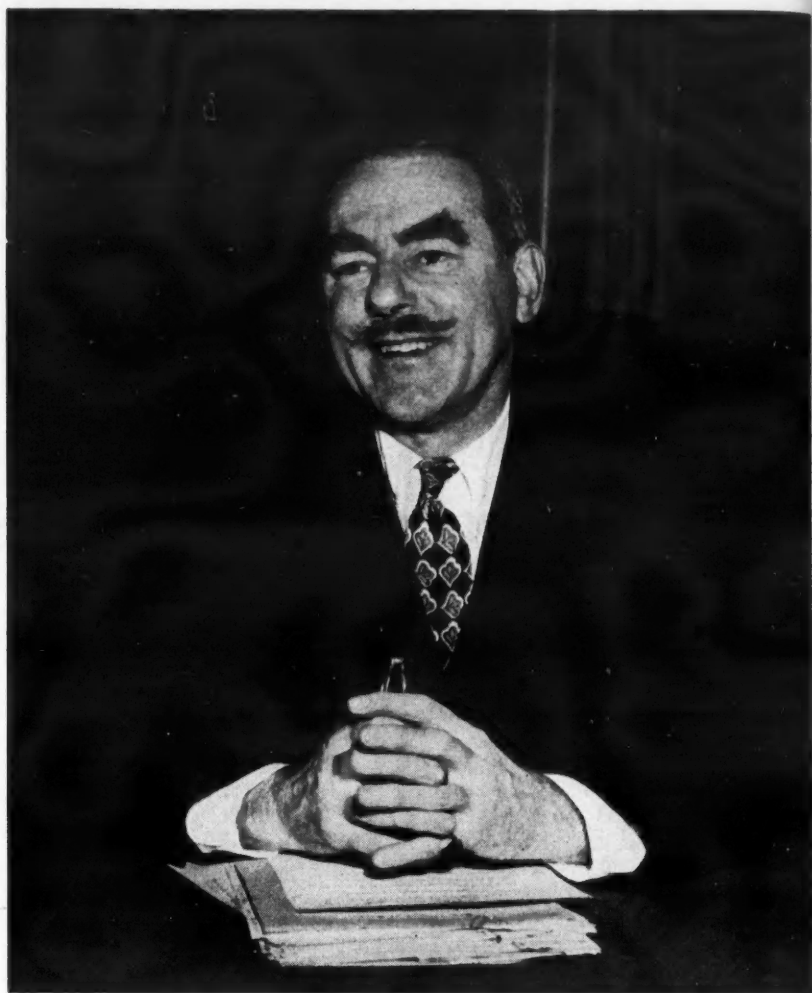
In addition to embassies and legations, our State Department also maintains consulates in all the important commercial cities in the world. The consuls, or officials in charge of these agencies, assist American businessmen who engage in foreign commercial enterprises.

The activities of the State Department are, indeed, far-reaching. The heart of the Department is the Secretary's Staff Committee, which we have described. Its members engage in frequent discussions with the foreign ambassadors and ministers who are stationed in Washington. Moreover, into this committee flow reports from our embassies, legations, and consulates all over the world.

The reports which it receives vary greatly in subject and importance. They may concern political and economic conditions in foreign countries. They may tell of violations of the rights and property of American citizens abroad. They may suggest ideas for creating good will between certain foreign countries and the United States. They may warn of foreign activities which endanger our national security.

Upon the reliability and thoroughness of these reports depends the effectiveness of our foreign relations. The President and Congress are often influenced by State Department information in making decisions on international policy.

For this reason, it is of the greatest importance that the most capable and thoroughly trained men available be selected to serve in the State Department and in the foreign service. Several independent schools of foreign affairs have been organized in recent years to train young men especially for this service.



DEAN ACHESON, U. S. Secretary of State

The State Department has been frequently criticized for its inefficient organization and for having too many politically appointed persons, rather than specially trained "career men," in ambassadorial and other key posts. There have been attempts to modernize and streamline this organization in recent years, and progress has been made. The rapid growth of the agency, however, has made it difficult to build a highly efficient organization. Mr. Acheson is expected to accomplish much along these lines.

While the caliber of certain State Department officials may be open to question, many of them are extremely well qualified for their positions. For example, two of Dean Acheson's advisers on Soviet-American relations are generally considered to be top-notch. They are Charles E. Bohlen and George F. Kennan. An outstanding writer on international affairs, Andre Visson, has this to say about these two men:

"Only a very few people here realize that no European country has anything similar to the Bohlen-Kennan team. If we had experts of their caliber on all other problems we could boast of having the best foreign office in the world.

"Bohlen and Kennan know Russia, Russian history, the Russian language and the Russian mentality to a degree which has rarely been attained by any foreigner."

Mr. Visson goes on to say that if there is any hope of working out peaceful relations with Russia, Bohlen and Kennan will know how to do it. They will be able to sense if or when the Soviet leaders are sincere in their desire for peace, or if they are putting on an act to hide their real motives.

Since Soviet-American relations are the No. 1 problem in the world today, it is highly encouraging to know that we have men such as Charles Bohlen and George Kennan working in this field.

Your Vocabulary

In the sentences below match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are to be found on page 8, column 4.

1. He proved to be a powerful *adversary* (ad'ver-ser-i). (a) opponent (b) athlete (c) writer (d) speaker (e) assistant.
2. The boy did not want to *implicate* (im'pli-kāt) his friend. (a) strike (b) involve (c) injure (d) spy on.
3. He used *devious* (dē'vī-us) methods to attain his goal. (a) skillful (b) irregular (c) new (d) direct.
4. They discussed what the *subsequent* (sub'sē-kwent) events might be. (a) important (b) unhappy (c) political (d) following.
5. The building had a beautiful *facade* (fā-sād'). (a) steeple (b) doorway (c) front (d) window.
6. The man was noted for his *sagacity* (sā-gas'i-tī). (a) keenness (b) good humor (c) kindness (d) generosity.
7. He tried to *facilitate* (fā-sil'i-tāt) his work. (a) change (b) make easier (c) explain (d) avoid.
8. The singer was at the *zenith* (zē'nith) of her career. (a) peak (b) end (c) beginning (d) critical point (e) low point.
9. Her face was *livid* (liv'īd). (a) very red (b) angry and resentful (c) ashy pale (d) tear-stained.
10. The *corpulent* (kor'pū-lent) detective took over the case. (a) skillful (b) clever (c) cautious (d) fat (e) successful.



"VOICE OF AMERICA" BROADCASTS are part of the State Department's work

Tune In!

THE radio program, "This Is New York," always presents a number of unusual facts about the nation's largest city. While this broadcast is local, the information it discloses is of general interest. John Horn, radio columnist, tells of some of the facts about New York which have been brought out on this program:

"The apparel industry in New York is first in the world (the industry employs about 360,000 or one of every twelve working New Yorkers; it produces about 90 per cent of the nation's fur coats, 40 per cent of its men's and boys' suits, 60 per cent of its hats, and four out of five dresses made in this country).

"The city has a total of 400 theaters, 3,000 bowling alleys, 5½ million radio sets. It shoots out to the nation more than 650 radio programs a week. The town's 25 stations are on the air for a total of more than 3,000 hours a week."

★ ★ ★

It was recently pointed out on the Cavalcade of America program that President Grover Cleveland had a successful operation for cancer and lived many years afterward without a recurrence of the disease.

★ ★ ★

"The Greatest Story Ever Told," broadcast by ABC on Sundays, presents absorbing dramatizations of the Bible. And the sponsor, the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, permits only two mentions of its name during the program.



JAMES MELTON, popular tenor, can be heard over the air on Sunday afternoons

Red Skelton has joined several noted comedians in moving from NBC to CBS. He'll be heard on the latter network beginning in the fall. Meantime, NBC has captured a program from CBS. It's the Harvest of Stars with James Melton, and it will be heard Sunday afternoons.

★ ★ ★

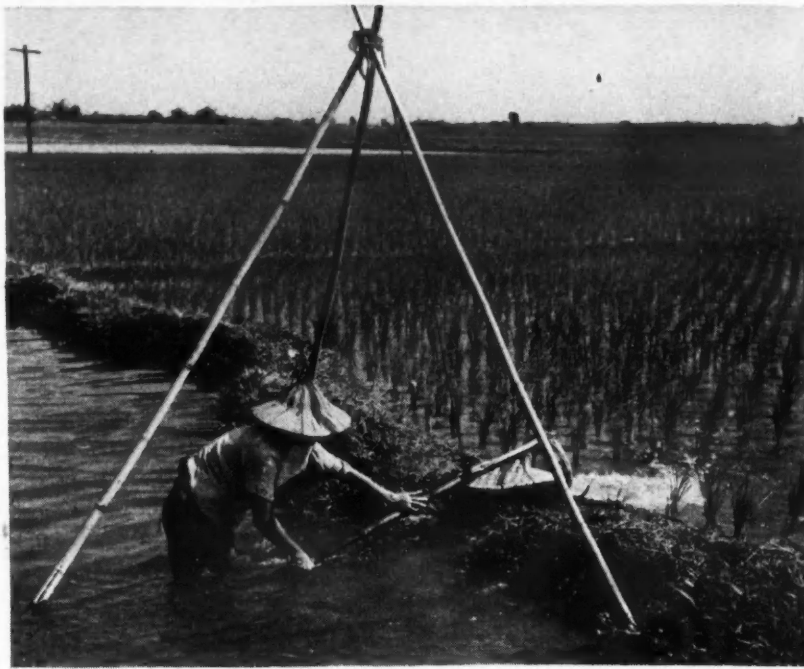
Lowell Thomas is on a four-months' "grass-roots" tour of 12 states west of the Mississippi. He's gathering first-hand material for his CBS news-casts.

★ ★ ★

Jimmy Stewart: No, Jack, I'd feel better if I paid the luncheon check.

Jack Benny: Well, if your health is involved, okay.

—By GEORGE EDSON.



A FORMOSAN WOMAN pumps water into a rice paddy

A Productive Island

Will Rich Formosa, in the Pacific Ocean, Remain a Place of Refuge for Anti-Communist Chinese Leaders?

AS a result of Communist military victories in China, many officials of the Nationalist government have fled to Formosa. Their future on this rugged island, which guards the Pacific approach to China, is uncertain. The Communists are likely to want Formosa, because it is highly productive and is rich in resources. Moreover, it lies in a strategic position—about 90 miles off the east coast of Asia and along the route between Japan and the Philippines.

In area, this island is a little less than half as large as South Carolina. On its eastern side are high mountains, densely forested, but further west there are fertile plains.

Most of the 6 million islanders are Chinese. People from the mainland have been crossing over to Formosa for centuries. At one time the island was a hideout for pirates and escaped criminals. About 300 years ago large numbers of Chinese political refugees went there, just as the Nationalist officials are doing now. Japan took Formosa away from China in 1895 and kept it until the end of World War II, but not many Japanese have made their homes on the island.

Settlers from China and other lands found Formosa inhabited by fierce native tribesmen—cannibals and head-hunters. The Japanese finally drove these natives into remote mountain areas, then built electrified wire fences and established guard posts to prevent them from invading the settled parts of the island. Some of the tribes still remain practically in savagery.

Formosa's farmers raise large quantities of sugar, rice, sweet potatoes, bananas, and tea. The island also produces coal, copper, gold, silver, lumber, and nearly all the natural camphor in the world. The United States and Canada have obtained a great deal of tea from Formosa, but otherwise Japan reserved most of the prewar trade of the island for her own people.

Japan was very systematic in her use of Formosa. She took the minerals and the farm and forest products in large quantities. During World War

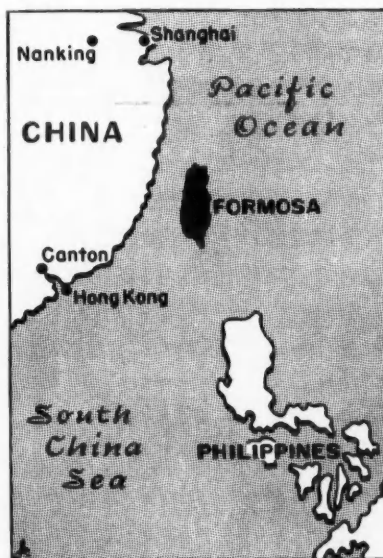
II she set up big military bases and training centers on the island.

Japanese officials and overseers on Formosa regarded and treated the islanders as inferiors. On the other hand, Japan gave Formosa better roads, schools, and health facilities than are to be found in most parts of China.

The Japanese brought in some tractors and other modern equipment for use on sugar cane plantations, but most farm work on Formosa has always been carried on by hand. Tilling of the rice fields is generally done with crude, buffalo-drawn, wooden plows.

The people of Formosa were happy to be freed from Japanese rule at the end of World War II. Unfortunately, the Chinese officials who then took charge did a poor job of governing, and a rebellion soon broke out. Eventually the uprising was crushed, and in 1947 China took steps to put the island under better management.

In recent months the Chinese Nationalists have apparently been setting up strong military bases on Formosa. This activity leads many people to believe that the Nationalists have intended to use the island as a final stronghold. —By THOMAS K. MYER.



FORMOSA'S LOCATION in relation to China and the Philippines

Monthly Test

Note to teachers. This test covers the issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER dated January 10, 17, 24, and 31. The answer key appears in the February 7th issue of The Civic Leader.

Directions to students. In each of the following items, select the correct answer and place its letter on your answer sheet. Value: 3 points per item; total for section, 39 points.

1. Many Americans want the old age insurance plan in the social security system to be changed in order to (a) cover more people and provide larger benefit payments; (b) place administration of the system exclusively in the hands of the individual states; (c) exclude individuals whose earnings exceed \$3,000 per year; (d) lower the retirement age for all persons covered by the law from 65 to 50.

2. Old age insurance funds in the social security program are obtained by contributions of (a) workers only; (b) employers only; (c) workers, employers, and the federal government; (d) workers and employers.

3. Extension of the social security program has been endorsed by (a) only the Democratic Party; (b) only the Republican Party; (c) both Democratic and Republican parties; (d) only the President.

4. By use of military force against the Indonesian Republic, the Netherlands has (a) won world-wide approval for her courageous stand against communism; (b) damaged the prestige of western Europe, America, and the United Nations; (c) restored self-government to the Indonesian people; (d) restored control of Indonesian resources to the Indonesian people.

5. A recent conference in London agreed that control over the Ruhr area of Germany shall be held by (a) the United Nations Security Council; (b) Britain, France, Russia, and the United States; (c) an international authority of five western European countries and the United States; (d) the Germans themselves without any outside interference.

6. The present British government favors (a) public ownership of all trade and industry; (b) public control but not ownership of all industry; (c) government ownership and management of major industries; (d) return of government-owned industries to private enterprise.

7. The amount requested by President Truman for next year's budget is (a) 52 billion dollars; (b) 49 billion dollars; (c) 42 billion dollars; (d) 37 billion dollars.

8. The biggest source of funds for the federal government is (a) corporation taxes; (b) taxes on individual incomes; (c) excise taxes; (d) customs taxes.

9. Which one of the following lands of Southeast Asia is not independent? (a) Siam; (b) Burma; (c) Philippines; (d) Malaya.

10. The countries of Southeast Asia are particularly important to the rest of the world for their production of (a) wheat, lead, and coal; (b) cotton, corn, and meat; (c) rubber, tin, and oil; (d) cloth, steel products, and iron ore.

11. To increase the amount of steel available for use in this country, government officials have suggested that (a) shipments of steel to foreign countries be stopped; (b) use of steel by our armed forces be cut in half; (c) the government build new steel plants or lend money to private industry for this purpose; (d) the government decide how all steel produced shall be used.

12. Southern Korea, at the present time, is (a) occupied by the United States; (b) an independent republic; (c) a UN trusteeship; (d) under Communist control.

13. The greatest American contribution to southern Korea since the war has been in the improvement of (a) education; (b) industry; (c) science; (d) housing.

(Concluded on page 8)

Monthly Test

(Concluded from page 7)

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the word, name, or phrase that best answers the question. Value: 3 points per item; total for section, 39 points.

14. What federal agency administers the Social Security law?

15. There has recently been a dispute between Nicaragua and what other Central American country?

16. Which of the Soviet "satellite" nations still refuses to "kneel under" to the international Communist movement or to Russia?

17. Java and Sumatra are important parts of what island group?

18. The capital city of Poland is

19. What nation greatly fears uncontrolled revival of industry in the Ruhr area?

20. Name the political party in Great Britain that favors government ownership of large industries.

21. What term is applied to the practice of prolonging discussion in order to delay voting on an issue before Congress?

22. Name the largest item in President Truman's budget for next year.

23. The money to pay for expenditures of the federal government must be appropriated by

24. What group has been stirring up trouble and revolution in the nations of Southeast Asia in attempts to gain control of their governments?

25. Several bills have been introduced into Congress requesting that the territories of Alaska and Hawaii be granted what status?

26. Give the name of the area in southern Palestine which has been the scene of fighting between Egypt and Israel.

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the letter of the word that most closely defines the word in italics. Value: 2 points per item; total for section, 12 points.

27. An *insurgent* army swept through the country. (a) rebellious (b) well-trained (c) powerful (d) huge.

28. He spoke *disparagingly* of the suggestion. (a) slightly (b) reluctantly (c) loudly (d) strongly.

29. She is a *frugal* housewife. (a) excellent (b) extravagant (c) poor (d) thrifty.

30. He asked to be *reimbursed*. (a) recognized (b) informed (c) repaid (d) forgiven.

31. She gave a *precise* account of the meeting. (a) brief (b) exact (c) witty (d) dull.

32. The statement was later *repudiated*. (a) proved (b) recorded (c) questioned (d) disclaimed.

Identify the following persons who are prominent in the news. Choose the correct description for each individual from the list below. Write the letter which precedes that description opposite the number of the person to whom it applies. Value: 2 points per item; total for section, 10 points.

33. Achmed Soekarno
34. Dean Acheson
35. Clement Attlee
36. Helen Gahagan Douglas
37. Ralph J. Bunche

- A. U. S. Representative from California
- B. Secretary of State
- C. UN Mediator in Palestine dispute
- D. President of Republic of Indonesia
- E. Prime Minister of Australia
- F. Prime Minister of Great Britain
- G. U. S. Representative from Illinois



MANY PIONEERS went West by covered wagon

FROM PAINTING BY ELIZABETH LOCHRIE IN BURLEY, IDAHO, POST OFFICE

Historical Backgrounds - - Pushing Westward

THE year 1949 marks the anniversary of a dramatic event in American history—the discovery of gold in California and the "gold rush" which followed. A hundred years ago courageous men and women, lured by the prospect of fortunes in the Far West, were moving across the continent in covered wagons and by horseback, traveling over mountains and trackless plains, braving dangers from Indians and starvation. In the single year of 1849 the population of California increased from 6,000 to 85,000.

Today, a century later, migration across the continent continues. During recent years, thousands of families have been moving in migratory waves to the Pacific. They are seeking, not the quick fortunes of 1849, but jobs in the bustling cities of the Pacific Coast, and the enjoyment of a pleasant climate. The population of California grew from about 7,000,000 to 10,000,000 from 1940 to 1948. The same period witnessed large population gains in the Pacific Northwest.

The war speeded the recent movement of people to the West. Large numbers of workers went to that region in order to take jobs in newly constructed armament plants. These workers became so attached to the West that, after the fighting ceased,

they and their families established permanent homes there.

This migration is the latest phase of movements which have played an important part in American history. The United States became a nation at a time when population throughout the world was growing rapidly.

Immigrants from Europe came in wave after wave to our shores. As time went on, more and more Americans pushed westward to occupy new lands and to seek and find opportunity in newly settled regions. Millions of earlier Americans found homes in frontier regions, farther and farther from the Atlantic seaboard which was occupied by the original thirteen states.

So long as immigrants poured into the United States and our own native population continued to expand on a great scale, people kept moving from older to newer regions. Industries of many kinds were stimulated. Pioneers built railroads and bridges and factories and schools and churches. The new towns grew by leaps and bounds. Fortunes were made and sometimes lost quickly. The people developed a pioneer spirit, which is a spirit of industry and adventure. The growth and movement of population had a great influence in making Americans

the kind of people that they are today.

Immigration from across the Atlantic practically ceased a quarter of a century ago when, in 1924, strict limitations were set upon the numbers of people who might come here in a single year from any foreign country. At the same time that the immigrant tide was shut off, the rate of increase of population in the United States declined. Population has continued to mount upward but not so rapidly as it once did, and statisticians tell us that before the present century is over, the population of America will cease to grow.

Not only has the rate of population increase slowed down, but the movement from east to west has diminished in volume. Most of the good free lands are gone, and there is less inducement than there formerly was for people to seek opportunity in the West. It is frequently said that the frontier has vanished, but the movement toward the Pacific Coast states shows that this statement is not quite true.

—By AMALIE ALVEY.

Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (a) opponent; 2. (b) involve; 3. (b) irregular; 4. (d) following; 5. (c) front; 6. (a) keenness; 7. (b) make easier; 8. (a) peak; 9. (c) ashy pale; 10. (d) fat.

Letters From Our Readers

The proposed amendment limiting our Presidents to two terms in office is, in my opinion, undemocratic. In a democracy, the people should have the right to determine for themselves whether they wish a man to serve one term or four. I also believe that the proposal may make for inefficiency. Is it not true that a President who has been in office two terms is more qualified to serve another than one who has not been in office at all?

HOWARD CARTER,
Bucklin, Missouri

★ ★ ★

I support the admission of more displaced persons to the United States. They might complicate the housing situation to a certain extent if they remained in the large cities, but they would not do so if they settled in rural communities, especially in the west and mid-west. It is my opinion that we should do all we can to help these unfortunate people, for are we not supposed to be the land of the free and the home of the brave? We would be living up to our highest traditions if we permitted more refugees to come here.

MYRA BERGER,
Brooklyn, New York

I disagree with those who oppose compulsory military training. It is true that we should have faith in the UN but it is also true that we must face reality. After World War One, we believed Germany when she promised not to rearm and yet she did so and was capable of starting another war in a comparatively short time. I think that we should be at least partially prepared for any emergency and that compulsory military training is a good way of getting an experienced, well-trained fighting force.

MERRILL C. BLAKE,
Branford, Connecticut

I think that we should leave as many factories as possible in Germany and not take them apart for shipment to other countries. If we set up the proper safeguards, these factories could turn out such products as farm machinery. In this way, Germany would be made to contribute to the rebuilding of all of Europe as well as help herself.

SHIRLEY THERIOT,
Greenwell Springs,
Louisiana

★ ★ ★

I believe that the Dutch-Indonesian conflict has further damaged the reputation of the United Nations. The Dutch are clearly in the wrong, yet the UN has been unable to stop the fighting. To my mind, we must strengthen the UN in the near future or else it will have no power to prevent another world war from breaking out.

GEORGE C. SPRING,
Rochester, New York

★ ★ ★

(Address your letters to: THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.)

